

U.S. Application No. 10/569,510

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently amended)** A method of providing a yarn or textile product with a desired property which comprises:

contacting a linker molecule comprising two or more ~~activatable-chemical~~ **carbene generating** groups with a yarn or textile product, and a non-linker molecule having a desired property;

activating the ~~activatable-chemical~~ **carbene generating** groups of the linker molecule to cause covalent attachment of the linker molecule to the yarn or textile product and the non-linker molecule, thereby attaching the non-linker molecule to the yarn or textile product by means of the linker molecule, and providing the yarn or textile product with the property of the non-linker molecule.

2. **(Original)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the non-linker molecule is covalently attached to the yarn or textile product in a single reaction step.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

4. **(Currently amended)** A method according to claim 1 ~~[[or 2]]~~, wherein the non-linker molecule is a solvent, a synthetic or natural chemical, a synthetic or natural dye, a synthetic polymer, a biopolymer, a biomolecule, a biologically active molecule, a synthetic or natural vitamin or hormone, or any combination thereof.

5. **(Currently amended)** A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim **1**, wherein the non-linker molecule is an enzyme (such as lysozyme), a growth factor, an anti-microbial agent, an antibiotic, a fungicide, an agent capable of suppressing the proliferation of bacteria or fungi, or any combination thereof.

Claims 6 - 13 (Cancelled).

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14. **(Currently amended)** A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the, ~~or each activatable chemical group of the linker molecule~~ carbene is thermochemically or photochemically ~~activatable~~ generated.

15. **(Currently amended)** A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the linker molecule comprises a natural or synthetic polymer, preferably a biopolymer.

16. **(Original)** A method according to claim 15, wherein the linker molecule comprises a protein, peptide, or polysaccharide.

17. **(Original)** A method according to claim 15, wherein the linker molecule comprises a dextran-based polymer.

18. **(Currently amended)** A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the linker molecule comprises a cleavage site which is cleaved under predetermined conditions to release the non-linker molecule or functional group from the yarn or textile product.

19. **(Original)** A method according to claim 18, wherein the linker molecule comprises a target for a hydrolytic enzyme to allow enzyme-induced, or biosystem-induced release of the non-linker molecule or functional group.

20. **(Currently amended)** A method according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~, wherein the linker molecule comprises a substrate for an endoglycosidase, or an endopeptidase.

21. **(Original)** A method according to claim 19, wherein the linker molecule is a dextran-based biopolymer which comprises a target for a dextranase.

Claims 22 - 24 (Cancelled).

25. **(Currently amended)** A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the yarn or textile product is of natural or synthetic origin, a blend of synthetic yarns, or a blend of natural and synthetic yarns.

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Claims 26 – 31 (Cancelled).

32. **(Currently amended)** ~~A method of Use of a linker molecule as defined in any of claims 6 to 8, or 11 to 24 to~~ covalently attaching a non-linker molecule having a desired property and/or a functional group having a different desired property to a yarn or textile product, thereby providing the yarn or textile product with the desired property or properties, wherein the method comprises use of a linker molecule comprising two or more carbene generating groups.

33. **(Currently amended)** A yarn or textile product covalently attached, by means of a linker molecule, to a non-linker molecule having a desired property, thereby providing the yarn or textile product with the desired property, wherein covalent attachment of the non-linker molecule to the yarn or textile product is the result of reaction of reactive carbene intermediates ~~generated from activatable chemical groups~~ provided by the linker molecule with the yarn or textile product and the non-linker molecule.

34. **(Currently amended)** A yarn or textile product according to claim 33, wherein covalent attachment of the non-linker molecule to the yarn or textile product is the result of reaction of ~~reactive intermediates generated from~~ thermochemically or photochemically ~~activatable chemical groups~~ generated carbenes provided by the linker molecule.

Claims 35 - 36 (Cancelled).

37. **(Currently amended)** A yarn or textile product according to claim 33 ~~any of claims 33 to 36~~, wherein the non-linker molecule is an enzyme (such as lysozyme), a growth factor, an anti-microbial agent, an antibiotic, a fungicide, an agent capable of suppressing the proliferation of bacteria or fungi, or any combination thereof.

Claims 38 - 51 (Cancelled).

52. **(Currently amended)** A yarn or textile product according to claim 33 ~~any of claims 33 to 51~~, wherein the linker molecule comprises a cleavage site which is

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cleaved under predetermined conditions to allow release of the non-linker molecule or functional group from the yarn or textile product.

53. (Original) A yarn or textile product according to claim 52, wherein the linker molecule comprises a target for a hydrolytic enzyme to allow enzyme-induced, or biosystem-induced release of the non-linker molecule.

Claims 54 - 58 (Cancelled).

59. (Currently amended) A yarn or textile product according to claim 33 ~~any of claims 33 to 58~~ which is of natural or synthetic origin, a blend of synthetic yarns, or a blend of natural and synthetic yarns.

60. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a yarn or textile product, a linker molecule ~~according to any of claims 29 to 31~~ comprising a dextran-based polymer or a cleavage site which is cleaved under predetermined conditions, and optionally a non-linker molecule as defined in claim ~~36~~ or 37.